

ACHIOTE AND COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS – 2008

Thursday, 24 April 2008

On behalf of Los Rapaces and CEASPA, We like to extend greetings and thank the administration and collaborators of Colorado State University who approved and helped us make the Alternative Spring Break 2008 trip a reality. Year after year, the community of Achiote, Colon Province, has participated in the projects alongside CSU, sharing in the experience. The community of Achiote has requested that CEASPA act as an intermediary, and thank Colorado State University and 2008's wonderful group of students, for their contribution to the community in the construction of the Casita Museo (Museum House). The Casita Museo, styled after the 1940s, serves as another attraction in the development of Ecotourism in Achiote. As such, the project values and celebrates the environment and natural resources that the area has to offer.

Los Rapaces have nicknamed the students of CSU Alternative Spring Break 2008: "Los Fabulosos," or the Fabulous Ones. We at CEASPA, along with the community of Achiote, wholeheartedly agree. Each year that we receive the visit of new students to help realize activities of community support, we observe better organization, a stronger spirit of collaboration, and greater interest and coordination. The students' impressive attitude has succeeded in making them a part of a community that will never forget them.

There are not words to describe this group of students. From their arrival and throughout their tiring tour of Panama City, they maintained enthusiasm, and at the end of the day when we met in CEASPA's office to go over the details of the project in Achiote and answer CSU student questions, students still wanted to know: "What is CEASPA?" "What does the organization do?" "Where does CEASPA work?" "What projects does CEASPA work on?" This let us know that the 2008 CSU group had clearly defined objectives and were excited to learn everything related to our organization and their surroundings.

It taught us that during future CSU trips we should include a brief explanation/workshop with the students about who we are, and what our mission, vision and objectives are as a non-profit Non-Governmental Organization directed towards the poor and excluded of Panama and the region, focusing on social justice and citizen participation in the construction of a better society.

For all of the above, we want to congratulate the CSU leaders, supervisors and students of 2008. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to collaborate with you and exchange opinions and ideas for the future between CSU, CEASPA and Los Rapaces.

Congratulations and greetings to our friends

Samantha McDonnel, Jessica Saeger, William Vieth, John Hackemer, Karina Mullen, Kristen Lubbers, Mehdi Mehrpartou, Courtney Grey, Christina Alpiger, Rachel Westerberg, Jeffery Garkow, Anne Timmerman, Sara Mitchell, Jillian Sanders, Emily Kern, Kelsie Furutani, Peter Linde, Karen Gardeneir, Robert Kling, Bolivar Senior.

We will always remember you…Many thanks,